

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT VOTES CONTINUATION OF RHODESIAN
SANCTIONS

1. CONTINUATION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIAN ORDER OF 1965 WAS
DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT LATE EVENING NOVEMBER 8 AND PASSED
IN BOTH HOUSES. COMMONS VOTED 133 TO 26 IN FAVOR. IN
HOUSE OF LORDS MARGIN WAS 73 TO 33.

2. ARGUMENTS FOLLOWED WHAT HAS BECOME TRADITIONAL PAT-
TERN WITH SMALL GROUP OF RIGHT WING CONSERVATIVES ASSERT-
ING THAT SANCTIONS NEVER HAVE WORKED AND NEVER WILL AND
THAT AFTER EIGHT YEARS GOVERNMENT IN SALISBURY SHOULD BE
RECOGNIZED. RIGHT WINGERS WERE JOINED BY REGINALD PAGET,
A LABOR MP, WHO NOTED THAT SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME HAD
STATED THAT ONE SHOULD NOT GIVE UP HOPE OF BRINGING
RHODESIA INTO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS, THEN ASKED RHETORI-
CALLY WHETHER THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SERIOUSLY IMAGINED
THAT ANY SETTLEMENT WHICH DID NOT INVOLVE THE TOTAL
SUBJECTION OF THE WHITES TO THE BLACKS WOULD BE ACCEPT-
ABLE TO THE UN. THE CONTINUATION OF SANCTIONS WAS "A
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POLICY OF DECADENT APPEASEMENT," PAGET SAID.

3. OPENING THE DEBATE SIR ALEC SAID THAT LIFTING SANCTIONS WOULD PRODUCE SUCH A STRONG REACTION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE RHODESIA THAT TALKS WOULD COME TO AN ABRUPT END. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BRITONS WERE FRUSTRATED WITH THE SLOW PROGRESS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD A SETTLEMENT BUT SAID THAT THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS A YEAR AGO AND IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO GIVE UP HOPE. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY DISMISSED SUGGESTIONS THAT BRITAIN DID NOT WANT A SETTLEMENT SAYING "WE ARE AS DETERMINED AS WE EVER WERE, IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, TO SEE THAT A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT IS ACHIEVED."

4. REPLYING FROM THE OPPOSITION FRONT BENCH IVOR RICHARD SAID THAT LIFTING SANCTIONS WOULD BE "THE HEIGHT OF ILLOGICALITY AND IRRATIONALITY AT THIS TIME." HE SUGGESTED THAT THE QUESTION OF SANCTIONS BUSTING BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. SIR ALEC REJECTED THIS NOTION SAYING THAT ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND THAT BRITAIN HAD BEEN WORKING THROUGH THE UN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE TO SPOTLIGHT INSTANCES WHEN SANCTIONS HAD BEEN BREACHED.

5. ANOTHER NEW THEME INTRODUCED INTO THE DEBATE BY LABOR MP GEORGE CUNNINGHAM WAS THE IDEA OF MAKING RHODESIA A UN TRUST TERRITORY. HOWEVER, THIS IDEA GOT LITTLE ATTENTION FROM OTHER SPEAKERS AND AS THE VOTE SHOWED, THE VAST MAJORITY CLEARLY WERE PREPARED TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT ANOTHER YEAR TO PURSUE A SOLUTION THROUGH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TALKS BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN RHODESIA AND THE EXERTION OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON THE SMITH REGIME. ANNENBERG

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